



The WisDOT Connector *Express*

September 19, 2007 ... Volume 8, Issue 12

Nearly \$30 million in federal funds will improve local roadways

Governor Jim Doyle has announced distribution of \$29.5 million to help complete 72 projects along Wisconsin's local roadway system – primarily county highways. The federal funds are administered by WisDOT through the federal Surface Transportation Program-Rural (STP-R). All projects are 80% federally funded and require a 20% local funding share. County officials in Wisconsin set priorities for local highway improvement projects. Most of the work will be completed over the next four to six years. More information, including a list of projects can be found on the WisDOT Web site at:

www.dot.wisconsin.gov/opencms/export/nr/modules/news/news_0401.html 786229440.html.

Hiawatha sets another ridership record

Last month, a total of 58,295 passengers boarded Amtrak Hiawatha Service trains - an increase of 5.1% over August of 2006 and the highest monthly total ever in the history of the Hiawatha Service. Calendar year-to-date ridership through August stands at 393,305 - a 1.7% increase over the same period last year. Also in August, a total of 11,055 Hiawatha passengers got on/off at the Milwaukee Airport Rail station - an average of 357 people every day. Another 5,730 riders utilized the new Sturtevant station in July - about 185 per day. The Hiawatha makes seven daily round trips between Milwaukee and Chicago (six on Sundays) and currently boasts the best on-time performance of any Amtrak route in the nation.

State Patrol employees honored at Capitol ceremony

Ten members of the Wisconsin State Patrol received special awards during a recent ceremony at the State Capitol in Madison. Award recipients included State Patrol Inspectors David Torres of Salem and Kevin Borreson of Tomah; Troopers Bryan Ashenbrenner of Two Rivers, Gary Cowan of New Lisbon, Marvin Kittelson of Osseo, Lori Maples of Iola, Briant Russell of Boscobel, Sgt. Jay Sampson of Rhinelander, Police Communications Supervisor Wendy Lynn Gribben of Wausaukee, and Executive Staff Assistant Jean Rickman of Middleton. More information on the award recipients can be found on the WisDOT Web site at:

http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/opencms/export/nr/modules/news/news_0402.html 786229440.html.

Wisconsin traffic fatalities claim 64 lives in August

Wisconsin traffic fatalities claimed the lives of at least 64 people last month, that's up from last year's August total of 56, but well below August's five-year average of 75 traffic deaths. Highway safety officials say August's wet weather and statewide law enforcement efforts likely combined to moderate highway speeds. In terms of traffic deaths, last month tied with August 1960 as the second safest month of August since World War II. So far this year, Wisconsin traffic crashes have claimed the lives of 521 people compared to 489 at this time last year.

Upcoming events

September 27 - October 1, 2007
October 10, 2007

[AASHTO conference](#), Midwest Airlines Center, Milwaukee
National Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day

The WisDOT Connector Express is produced by:

Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Office of Public Affairs, PO Box 7910
Madison, WI 53707-7910
Phone: (608) 266-3581
Fax: (608) 266-7186

E-mail: opa.exec@dot.state.wi.us

Web site: www.dot.wisconsin.gov

Back issues available at www.dot.wisconsin.gov/library/publications/format/newsletters/connector.htm